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COWBIRD.—Mr. Harry B. McConnell's mention of the appearance of a Cowbird at Cadiz, Ohio, February 23, 1906, in the Bulletin in Vol. XXII, No. 2, pp. 125, recalls a similar incident. On January 8, 1909, a farmer telephoned me that he had shot a black English Sparrow from a flock that was feeding about his hog pen; of course I was anxious to see it, and he sent it to me. It proved to be a male Cowbird in excellent condition. Inquiry elicited the fact that it was the only one in the flock. The date only, is unusual, as I have very frequently seen mixed flocks of English Sparrows and Cowbirds feeding together in the fall. The only places I have seen them thus feeding together, however, has been in the feeding lots where hogs are fed the cobs of sweet corn, that are hauled from the canning factories.

ALBINISTIC ROBIN.—This specimen was brought to me on October 3, 1910, by a man who had shot it from a flock of robins. It is evidently a "bird of the year." The bird is not a complete albino, but is colored as follows: Throat, white with dusky streaks; head and back, pale yellowish; primaries and tail feathers, white with a faint yellowish tinge; upper tail coverts, paler than the back; lower tail coverts, white; breast and sides, pale rufous (much paler than normal); bill and feet, flesh color.

Circleville, Ohio.

B. R. BALES, M.D.

#### A PRIVATE BIRD PRESERVE.

That one of the largest breeding colonies of herons to be found in this country is located on lands belonging to the McIlhenny family at Avery Island, Iberia Parish, Louisiana, may be news of much interest to most of our readers.

In a letter to the writer, dated November 3, 1910, and accompanied by many interesting photographs taken in the rookery, illustrating the nesting habits of the birds, Mr. Edwd. A. McIlhenny estimates that more than 15000 pairs of Gulf Coast birds nest annually on the "Island," embracing several species of herons, among them 2000 pairs of the Little White or Snowy Egret (*Egretta candidissima*) which, as many of us are aware, suffered most disastrously (verging on extermination) at the hands of plume-hunters.

In the opinion of Mr. McIlhenny the Avery Island Preserve is the most extensive one of its kind in the United States.

Such effective bird-protection work is most commendable and encouraging.

Let us hope earnestly that it may be patterned after and introduced successfully in other parts of our country as well.

We need many such places, and, if the national and state gov-

ernments cannot so readily create and perpetrate them, private citizens happily placed, and with the means and inclination to do so, can—taking the results of this Louisiana enterprise as an illustration.

B. T. G.

#### EXCEPTIONAL OHIO RECORDS.

The unusual opening of winter in December and its continuance into the early part of January put the most of Ohio on the winter basis, as far as bird life is concerned, at least two weeks earlier than usual. From a purely local standpoint this condition should result in the influx of some of the more hardy winter birds early and bring into the region birds which pay a visit to the state only once in a number of years. Reports coming from northern Ohio indicate that there was a decided influx of at least two exceptional species.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*). During the greater part of December, all of January, and until February 17, a flock of a half dozen birds lived in two northern spy apple trees, which still contained some frozen fruit, at the writer's home in Birmingham. They left when the robins came and worried them. Their peculiar squeaky twittering note was constantly mingled with the conversation coming from a neighboring hen yard. This visitation seems to be the first recorded one for this county.

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*). Since the 1890-1 visitation to northern Ohio there seem to be no other records until this winter, just twenty years later. The exact date of first occurrence is lacking, and is of minor importance since for Oberlin a flock of six birds have been present (is still present) since early in December. Mr. H. G. Morse reports one brought to him on January 21st, shot from a flock which was about a mile south of Huron. Mr. Frank T. Cartwright, Jr., writes me that there have been two of these birds in Delaware this winter. Mr. E. A. Doolittle, of Painesville, Ohio, reminds me that the record of this species on March 20, 30, and 31, 1909, which he reported to me at that time, never appeared in the Bulletin, through an oversight of mine. I am glad to correct that omission as far as possible now by calling especial attention to the 1909 occurrence, which seems to be the only one for Ohio for that winter. Mr. Doolittle also reports a single bird at his home on March 13 and 16 of this year.

These records, with reports of another visitation to New England, seem to indicate that conditions north were again such that the birds were forced to find new feeding places. We may proba-